GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4226
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2005
FUNCTIONS OF NPPCO
Rawat Shri Kamla Prasad

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the functioning of the National Pharmaceuticals Price Control Organisation (NPPCO) ;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up fixed price structure for various services in the hospitals;

(c) if so, the time by which the said structure will be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (DR.ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a): The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is entrusted with the task, inter-alia, to fix prices and notify changes therein, if any, of bulk drugs and formulations, from time to time, under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1985. Other functions of NPPA, include:

(1) To implement and enforce the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 in accordance with the powers delegated to it.

(2) To monitor the availability of drugs, identify shortages, if any, and to take remedial steps.

(3) To collect/maintain data on production, exports and imports, market share of individual companies, profitability of companies etc. for bulk drugs and formulations.

(4) To undertake and/or sponsor relevant studies in respect of pricing of drugs/pharmaceuticals.

NPPA has been discharging its functions effectively and has fixed/revised the prices of 237 bulk drugs including derivates and 3070 packs of formulations since its inception.

(b) to (d): In Central Government hospitals, all the services are provided free of cost except for some costly investigations, for which nominal rates are charged. For poor patients, even the nominal charges are waived off.

Health being a State subject, it is for the respective State Governments to fix the charges of services provided by the Government Hospitals/Private Hospitals/other clinical establishments of the State within its jurisdiction.